



News from
Councilmember Todd Gloria

District Three

NEWS RELEASE

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City Council Acts to End Veteran Homelessness in San Diego

San Diego Moves Forward on \$12.5 Million Initiative to House 1,000 Veterans

SAN DIEGO, CA (March 1, 2016) – The San Diego City Council today unanimously approved the *1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative*, a City-wide effort to house veterans through landlord incentives, rapid rehousing vouchers, and supportive services. Councilmember Todd Gloria, who chairs the Regional Continuum of Care Council, the regional planning body for ending homelessness, moved the item and lauded the initiative as a result of work being done by the City, County, Housing Commission, and partners in the service provider community.

Today's action approved \$4 million in proceeds from the ground lease on San Diego Square Apartments and funds from the pending sale of the Hotel Metro to implement the program. The entire initiative will commit \$12.5 million towards homeless veteran assistance from City, Federal, and Housing Commission resources.

"No one who served our nation in uniform should be homeless," said Councilmember Gloria. **"The *1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative* provides a path towards ending veteran homelessness in San Diego. The entire states of Utah and Connecticut have utilized the Housing First model to effectively end homelessness among their veterans. Our region must do better by the men and women who served our nation to connect them to the supportive services and permanent housing they deserve."**

The initiative consists of four major components to implement its goals: landlord outreach, rapid rehousing assistance, Federal Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers, and Federal vouchers and services for homeless veterans that do not qualify for VASH vouchers. These components incentivize landlord participation through providing rent payments, security deposit and utility assistance, and contingency funds.

The *1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative* will be administered by the San Diego Housing Commission as part of *Housing First San Diego*, the City's three-year Homelessness Action Plan launched in 2014. The Housing First model is recognized nationwide as a best practice and focuses on connecting homeless individuals immediately with permanent housing and social services. It is estimated that between 1,000 and 1,600 homeless veterans live in the region. The successful implementation of the program will have a significant impact on the regional goal of ending veteran homelessness.

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